



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 7, Issue 36

September 15, 2005

# Weekly Special Report



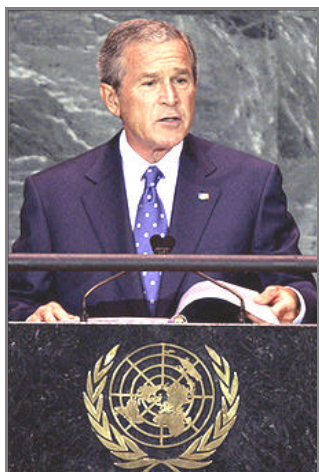
Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## Bush Appeals for Strong U.N. Response to Global Challenges

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations Correspondent

United Nations -- President Bush opened the United Nations' 60th Anniversary Summit September 14 with an appeal to nations to step forward to actively respond to the challenges of terrorism, poverty, disease, and promoting development and democracy.



President George W. Bush at the U.N.

Bush led off the three-day gathering that includes more than 150 presidents, prime ministers and monarchs saying that "in this young century the four corners of the world are linked more closely than ever before and no nation can remain isolated and indifferent to the struggles of others."

"When a country or re-  
(Continued on page 2)

## Addis Ababa Remembers September 11

September 9, 2005  
No. 42/05

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – Four years after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans, Ethiopians, and members of Addis Ababa's international community have gathered to remember those lost that day, to consider events in the months and years since, and to look forward with hope for a better future.



Chargé d'Affaires, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, giving remarks at the ceremony

The ceremony took place on Friday, September 9, at the Ethiopia-America September 11 Memorial Park on top of Entoto Mountain, a joint project of the Ethiopia Heritage Trust and the U.S. Embassy. The Embassy's Chargé d'Aff-

(Continued on page 2)

### African issues

Laura Bush Speaks on Fighting AIDS, Improving Education in Africa (P 4)

New Emergency Plan Launched To Protect Horn of Africa from Polio (P 6)

World Bank's Wolfowitz Outlines Africa Action Plan Initiative (P 7)

### American news

Fourth Anniversary of September 11 (P 9)

Muslims Integrating and Finding Acceptance in American Society (P 10)

Millennium Aid Group Adopts New Evaluation Standard (P 12)

Americans Grateful for World's Hurricane Support, Silverberg Says (P 13)

### The U.N.

Final Declaration Ready for U.N. Summit Approval (P 14)

United States Lists Seven Priorities for U.N. Reform (P 15)

---

## Addis Ababa Remembers September 11 . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

fares, Ambassador Vicki Huddleston, was joined by Addis Ababa City Manager Ato Zemdkun Girma, leaders of the country's Orthodox, Catholic, and Muslim religious communities, fellow envoys from the diplomatic community, and family members of Ethiopian-American victims of the attacks, along with survivors from both New York and Washington.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Huddleston cited the words of American civil-rights leader Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., who called for "a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class, and nation," and who said that "We can no longer afford to worship the God of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation."

The Memorial Park on Entoto is part of the Ethiopia Heritage Trust's efforts to conserve and reforest the hills around Addis Ababa. As part of the ceremony, participants planted over 200 indigenous trees, adding them to the

3,000 seedlings that were planted at the Park's dedication in 2004. In addition, members of the U.S. Embassy community have participated in improving the memorial that is the centerpiece of the Park, this year adding five benches that allow visitors to contemplate the monument and the views beyond.

♦

**See more pictures of the memorial on page 9**

## Bush Appeals for Strong U.N. Response . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

gion is filled with despair and resentment and vulnerable to violent and aggressive ideologies, the threat passes easily across oceans and borders and can threaten the security of any peaceful country," the president said.

The world leaders are meeting to mark the 60th anniversary of the world organization and adopt a document that will help revitalize the United Nations and set an agenda to tackle the problems of the 21st century. The 35-page document that they are expected to adopt at the end of the session outlines principles in the areas of human rights, development and poverty reduction, peacebuilding and democracy, terrorism, HIV/AIDS and malaria, and U.N. management reform. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2005/Sep/13-285851.html>).)

The president devoted a major portion of his remarks to facing and stopping terrorism around the world and tackling the problems that allow terrorists to flourish and recruit. "The lesson is clear: There can be no safety in looking away or seeking the quiet life by ignoring the hardship and oppression of others," he said, citing more than a dozen nations that have suffered terrorist attacks.

"We know that this war will not be won by force of arms alone," the president said. "We must help raise up the failing states and stagnant societies that provide fertile ground for the terrorists. We must defend and extend a vision of human dignity, and opportunity, and prosperity -- a vision far stronger than the dark appeal of resentment and murder." (See Response to Terrorism ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/terrorism.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html)).)

The United Nations must send a clear message that it will not allow the rulers of outlaw regimes who sponsor terror and pursue weapons of mass murder to threaten the peace and stability of the world, he said.

Discussing the need to help nations that are struggling with poverty, the president challenged nations to work together in the Doha negotiations of the World Trade Organization to eliminate agricultural subsidies, tariffs and other barriers to open markets for farmers around the world. (See USA and the WTO ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/WTO.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html)).)

"Today I broaden the challenge by making this pledge: The United States is ready to eliminate all tariffs, subsidies and other barriers to free flow of goods and services as other nations do the same," he

*(Continued on page 3)*

---

## Bush Appeals for Strong U.N. Response . . .

(Continued from page 2)

said. "This is the key to overcoming poverty in the world's poorest nations."

The president warned that Avian influenza, or bird flu, presents a new threat to public health and if left unchallenged "this virus could become the first pandemic of the 21st Century." He announced the creation of a new "International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza."

On United Nations reform, the president said that the United Nations must be "strong and efficient, free of corruption, and accountable to the people it serves" if the organization is to meet its goals.

"The United Nations must stand for integrity and live by the high standards it sets for others," he said. "And meaningful institutional reforms must include measures to improve internal oversight, identify cost savings, and ensure that precious resources are used for their intended purpose."

Bush also thanked nations and international agencies for helping the United States deal with the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. "We have witnessed the awesome power of nature -- and the greater power of human compassion," he said.

More than 115 countries and a dozen organizations have stepped forward with aid, he said. "To every nation, every province, and every community across the world that is standing with the American people in this hour of need, I offer the thanks of my nation."

Joining the president in opening the summit were Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson and Gabon President Omar Bongo Ondimba, co-chairs of the summit, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Annan said that the summit has already served "as a trigger for progress on critical issues" such as the recent creation of the Democracy Fund, the adoption of the International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, and pledges of an additional \$50 billion a year to fight poverty.

"Millions of lives, and the hopes of billions, rest on the implementation of these and other pledges to fight poverty, disease, illiteracy and inequality, and on development," he said.

The secretary-general pointed out that in adopting the summit document, the international community will condemn terrorism in all its forms, pledge to finalize an anti-terrorism convention by the end of the year, and support a strategy to fight terrorism in a way that makes the international community stronger and terrorists weaker.

By accepting the document with its statement of responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanities, Annan said, "excellencies, you will be pledged to act if another Rwanda looms."

Persson mentioned the recent terrorist attack in Egypt's Sharm-el-Sheik, Hurricane Katrina and starving children in Niger as "painful examples of the challenges facing us today."

"Most of these challenges respect no border. Most of them are linked. And most of them can only be met if we work together," Persson said. "In this age of globalization, we should regard international cooperation as part of our national interest."

Urging nations to bring the declarations and concrete actions much closer together, the prime minister said, "we must rise above short-term interests, and invest in the future for generations to come."

Bongo Ondimba said the summit document "should not merely be one more declaration, but the birth of a new impetus, new commitment, new pragmatism."

"African countries have resolutely embarked on this path. To us, development, combating poverty, and good governance are our daily struggle," he said.

A transcript (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=September&x=20050914111525mbzemog0.841427&t=livefeeds/wf-latest.html>) of Bush's remarks to the General Assembly is available on the State Department Web site. For more information on U.S. activities at the United Nations, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

---

## Laura Bush Speaks on Fighting AIDS, Improving Education in Africa

America's commitment to education and combating disease will improve the future for millions of children in Africa -- many of whom have the same concerns and needs as children worldwide -- first lady Laura Bush told a Washington foreign affairs audience September 13.

In a speech to the Heritage Foundation after her recent trip to Africa, Mrs. Bush stressed President Bush's commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS worldwide and especially in Africa. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Jul/14-246329.html>).

"In 2003, President Bush announced a five-year, \$15 billion plan to fight AIDS in the most afflicted nations. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief -- or PEPFAR -- supports care and treatment for people affected by HIV, and funds efforts to prevent further transmission of the disease," she told her audience.

Speaking about education, the first lady noted that President Bush's African Education Initiative provides students with school supplies, scholarships and books. "The President has proposed new funding that over the next four years will train 500,000 schoolteachers and administrators in Africa. And it will make available 300,000 scholarships for African girls to attend school through the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program," she said.

For more information, see U.S. Aid to Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html)) and AIDS in Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids/](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids/)



First lady Laura Bush speaks at the Heritage Foundation, September 13, 2005.

[aids\\_in\\_africa.html](#)).

Following are excerpts of the first lady's speech:

(begin excerpt)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the First Lady  
September 13, 2005

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY  
TO THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
Washington, D.C.

...One lesson I've learned during my travels here and around the world is how similar children are across borders. All children want an adult in their lives. And children want to learn. Yet opportunities for school are scarce in many places around the globe. UNESCO reports that more than 100 million school-age children worldwide do not attend school. In some developing nations, schools have been devastated by war or ethnic violence. In many countries, particularly in Africa, the HIV/AIDS crisis has decimated the teaching profession.

President Bush's African Education Initiative provides students

with school supplies, scholarships, and books. The President has proposed new funding that over the next four years will train 500,000 schoolteachers and administrators in Africa. And it will make available 300,000 scholarships for African girls to attend school through the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program.

In Rwanda, 29 girls at the FAWE School receive scholarships from the United States. These girls can concentrate on their studies in a safe and supportive boarding school environment. They have dreams of becoming doctors and lawyers and scientists. One girl told me she wanted to be pilot because she said she's never seen a female pilot in Rwanda.

The girls who attend FAWE were small children when the Rwandan genocide devastated their country. Many lost one or both parents. Some girls have lost one parent to war and another to AIDS. These horrific events have left deep impressions. I met with the senior class where each of the girls told me a little bit about herself. At the end, the principal asked them if there was any -- if they had any questions for me, and the very first question that a girl asked was, how did the United States heal after the Civil War? Just ten years removed from the genocide, Rwanda's children are trying to heal. And they're beginning to think about their own nation's future. And they're looking to the United States for guidance.

Educated girls are better able to handle any challenges in their lives, including violence and dis-

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Laura Bush Speaks on Fighting AIDS. . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

ease. In societies where girls aren't educated, men hold most of the power. Economic power can equate with sexual power, with devastating circumstances. Violence against women and the spread of HIV/AIDS are linked. When girls are educated, they're better able to negotiate their own sexual lives. They have more of a chance to abstain from sex or to make their partner use a condom.

The United States is helping the people of Africa combat AIDS. In 2003, President Bush announced a five-year, \$15 billion plan to fight AIDS in the most afflicted nations. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief -- or PEPFAR -- supports care and treatment for people affected by HIV, and funds efforts to prevent further transmission of the disease.

The people of Africa actually know what PEPFAR is. In more than one case, I was told by the Rwandan Minister of AIDS that people out in the bush say, thank President Bush. Now I'm well, I feel good now because of the anti-retrovirals they're on.

But I visited a great program in Cape Town, South Africa called Mothers to Mothers-to-be. Women who are pregnant and HIV-positive get drug therapies to prevent transmission of the disease to their children. And as they graduate from the program, many are hired to be trainers themselves and to mentor the next group of mothers. Micro-enterprises are funded so that women can earn some money making small items like belts and lanyards so that they can become self-sustaining and

less reliant on their partners.

PEPFAR is supporting the expansion of the Mothers to Mothers-to-be model into other parts of South Africa. And each mother who celebrates the news that her baby is HIV-free knows that PEPFAR and the American people have made that possible.



**U.S. first lady Laura Bush poses with participants during a visit to the 'Mothers to Mothers-to-Be' Aids project in Cape Town's Khayelitsha township, July 12, 2005.**

This week in New York, at the United Nations General Assembly, I'll speak to the Organization of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS, and also to a group of public and private sector leaders involved in the fight against malaria. I'll discuss America's efforts to expand access to education, and to fight AIDS and malaria. And I'll assure people that the United States is committed to working in partnership with African nations.

America's commitment to education and to combating disease will improve the future for millions of children in Africa. And by helping

young people in America form relationships with caring adults, we can help them find a source of support and guidance that can stay with them throughout their lives.

Your contributions, through research, policy studies, community involvement, and conversations

like the ones that you'll be having today are vital to our efforts.

Thank you for inviting me to speak with you this morning. And best wishes for a very productive and enjoyable Founder's Meeting. Thank you all very, very much.

(end excerpt)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## New Emergency Plan Launched To Protect Horn of Africa from Polio

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative - spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF -- launched on September 13 an ambitious new series of polio immunization campaigns to prevent the re-establishment of the disease in the Horn of Africa.

The new plan comes as a polio case was confirmed in Somalia, a country that had been polio-free since 2002. The plan, as noted in a joint news release issued by the previously mentioned organizations, will see a large-scale series of immunization campaigns coordinated across eight countries -- Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, and parts of Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo -- between September and November.

The campaigns are expected to reach more than 34 million children with multiple doses of polio vaccine and rapidly boost population immunity in the Horn of Africa. The rapid and large-scale response is largely possible due to a \$ 25 million grant provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and support by other donors including the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO).

In addition to this most recent \$25 million grant, the foundation previously provided \$85 million in funding, including \$10 million for the development of the monovalent oral polio vaccine. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/May/19-190124.html>).



**Ethiopian Polio victims wearing T-shirt that says 'let's eradicate Polio'**

The plan has been finalized over the past weeks, the press release notes, amid growing concern that outbreaks in neighboring Ethiopia and Yemen could spread across porous borders with Somalia. Now, with confirmation of polio there, rapid implementations of the emergency measures are essential, the release warns.

Although five nationwide polio immunization campaigns were conducted in Somalia in 2005, most recently in June, July and August, to prevent the risk of a large-scale epidemic, insecurity in the country and low routine immunization rates could still result in rapid spread of

the virus.

"The polio eradication initiative has shown the world that even in the poorest countries, widespread and debilitating disease can be defeated," said Patty Stonesifer, co-chair and president of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"Today, as a resurgence of polio threatens to roll back the amazing progress of the past 20 years, it is more important than ever that governments and donors support the final push to eradicate polio," she added.

The first phase of the plan is being launched on September 28 in Somalia, where 1.5 million children under the age of five years will be targeted for immunization.

To maximize the impact of the campaigns, some of the countries will be using the recently developed monovalent oral polio vaccine type 1 (mOPV1).

Licensed earlier in 2005, also with support by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, mOPV1 offers higher protection against poliovirus type 1, the specific virus currently affecting the Horn of Africa, with fewer doses than traditional trivalent polio vaccine.

Genetic sequencing is ongoing to determine the origin of the latest virus. Global polio eradication efforts have reduced the number of

*(Continued on page 17)*

---

## World Bank's Wolfowitz Outlines Africa Action Plan Initiative

By Bruce Greenberg  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Outdated perceptions of Africa as "the dark continent" are giving way to a new image of Africa as a dynamic player on the global economic and geopolitical stage, says World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz.

Speaking at a September 8 press conference jointly hosted by the World Bank and National Geographic magazine in honor of the magazine's special September issue titled *Africa: Whatever You Thought, Think Again*, Wolfowitz stressed that "Africa is at the top of our [World Bank's] development agenda."

The event also spotlighted both organizations' collaboration in the production of the magazine issue, particularly with a specially designed wall-sized color map insert intended to raise awareness of the challenges to end poverty on the sub-Saharan continent.

In drawing distinctions between the "old Africa" and the new, Wolfowitz said, "We hear often about an Africa that is ravaged by poverty, disease and conflict. News headlines and footage transmit images of starving women and children in Niger. They report on violence and suffering in Sudan's Darfur region. They cite alarming statistics about the human toll of HIV/AIDS and malaria.

"But there is another part of the story that we hear about all too rarely," he added. "There is another face to Africa. One of hope, ambition and achievement which is

captured so compellingly in this issue."

Wolfowitz praised National Geographic's editorial staff for emphasizing this progressive view of Africa's present and future potential.

"I was struck by the optimism ... about the future of Africa, with its rich geography and history. It is an optimism I share and which was reinforced for me by a [recent] visit to four African countries in June in my first weeks as president of the World Bank. I met with heads of states, government officials, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations], women activists, students—and I saw firsthand how they are taking ownership of their countries' future." He added, "I came back with the conviction that Africa can become a continent of hope."

Though portraying the continent in optimistic terms, Wolfowitz reminded his audience of the daunting challenges that must be overcome to realize such a future.

"Africa," he said "has the largest share of poor people in the world. In the last twenty-five years, the number of Africans living on \$1 a day has nearly doubled from 164 million to 314 million. Economic growth during this period averaged about 3 percent. This is far short of what is needed to reduce poverty. Without faster progress, the number of poor people is expected to rise to 340 million in the next 10 years."

Wolfowitz reiterated the World Bank's commitment to the United Nation's eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education, all by the target date of 2015.



**Paul Wolfowitz**  
World Bank president

"Five years ago, world leaders set clear targets to reduce poverty by half and improve economic and social conditions in developing countries. Both rich and poor countries pledged to do their part in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Rich countries promised debt relief and an increase in aid in exchange for policies and governance that use aid effectively in poor countries.

*(Continued on page 8)*



---

## World Bank's Wolfowitz Outlines Africa Action Plan . . .

(Continued from page 7)

For Africa, he said, "the MDGs pose a daunting task. To keep the number of poor from rising alone, it will need to achieve a growth rate of 5 percent. To meet the target of halving poverty by 2015, growth will have to accelerate to 7 percent. This is nearly double the region's growth rate today."

Outlining the World Bank's specific action plan for Africa, he stated that "our Board [has] discussed an Africa Action Plan to help African countries accelerate growth and achieve tangible results in fighting poverty. The plan sets forth 25 specific initiatives to be led by African countries during the next three years. It also sets clear financing commitments for free primary education in 15 countries as well as roads, power and infrastructure."

Addressing an issue that is of major concern for the development of democratic governments and the rule of law on the continent -- that of corruption, Wolfowitz said, "At the World Bank, we are working with [African] countries that request our help to strengthen legislation and institutions, so they can take charge of combating corruption. The burden of fighting corruption, however, cannot be placed on developing countries

alone. Rich countries and development organizations alike must play their part in supporting developing countries to step up to this challenge."

Adding that the World Bank is fully aware of the potential of corruption in impeding its own aid programs, Wolfowitz emphasized that, "we know very well that the projects the World Bank finances are themselves vulnerable to corruption — and we are doing something about it. We conduct regular audits and investigate allegations of fraud. An anti-corruption hotline has been set up for firms and individuals — including staff — to report bribes and misuse of funds. And we publicly blacklist firms and individuals that engage in bribery in our projects."

Wolfowitz concluded by saying that Africa's future lies in the hands of its own people as well as the greater world community.

"If it is to face the great challenges that lie ahead, Africa's transformation will depend on the commitment of the international community and the resolve of its people and leaders. It will also depend on a close partnership that is led by Africa and supported by rich countries and by multilateral institutions. We are driven today by the urgent need to achieve results

and create opportunities for the men, women and youth of Africa — to show the world the face of Africa that is marked with hope and optimism."

For more information on progress in Africa, see Democracy and Human Development ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/democracy\\_human\\_development.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/democracy_human_development.html)), Trade and Economic Development ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development.html)), and Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).

An interactive edition (<http://www7.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/0509/index.html>) of National Geographic's September issue on Africa can be found at the magazine's Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



---

## Fourth Anniversary of September 11, 2001, a Somber Remembrance

By Laura Potter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Four years have passed since the terrorist attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon took the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans. On September 11, dozens of memorial services and commemorative activities across the nation will honor those who lost their lives and celebrate efforts to rebuild.

Over the span of years, Americans have found a way to move forward, to rebuild and restore order to life, and to pay tribute to the lost even while mourning continued terrorist attacks around the world. Those who gave their lives that fateful day are remembered and missed, and the attacks continue to have a profound effect on world events.

New York City continues a remarkable recovery from the attacks, and a design has been chosen in preparation for rebuilding at the "Ground Zero" -- the site of the World Trade Center -- that includes an extensive memorial intended to remind the United States of the cost of freedom.

In Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, American resilience was exemplified in the speed and fervor with which the Pentagon was rebuilt within one year of the direct strike to the west side of the building that killed 184.

In the state of Pennsylvania, where a fourth hijacked airliner crashed in a field, killing all 40 persons aboard, a church -- Flight 93 Memorial Chapel, completed September 11, 2002 -- has been

### 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



U.S. Marine Guards at the memorial ceremony at Entoto mountain



Ambassador Huddleston plants a tree



Participants planted over 200 seedlings at the site

named after the flight. Services honoring the dead will be held at the church throughout the weekend. (See additional information (<http://www.flt93memorialchapel.org/>).)

Americans across the nation will mark the fourth anniversary in special services like the annual memorial ceremony held at Ground Zero in New York City on September 11. At the 2005 service, the names of victims killed at the World Trade Center will be read by their siblings. In addition, victims' families will gather at the footprints of the twin towers by descending into Ground Zero, a site now below street level. At sundown, the "Tribute in Light" will shine its twin beacons for one night as a symbol of the spirit of the community.

The U.S. Department of Defense will host an "America Supports You" Freedom Walk from the Pentagon to the National Mall beginning at 10 a. m., followed by a concert featuring Country recording artist Clint Black. (See additional information (<http://www.asyfreedomwalk.com/>).)

The Pentagon Memorial site and the America's Heroes Memorial located inside the Pentagon will be open to the public, for the first time since the attack, Saturday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p. m. Walking tours will be given and replicas of the chosen memorial design will on display.

*(Continued on page 16)*

---

## Muslims Integrating and Finding Acceptance in American Society

By Tim Receveur  
Washington File Staff Writer



Ihsan Alkhatib

Washington – Ihsan Alkhatib, a Michigan lawyer who is deeply involved in civil rights issues, believes that the U.S. government's policy

of tolerance and acceptance is largely responsible for the successful integration of Arab Americans and Muslims into American society.

These groups are successful economically, with above-average education and income levels -- even though half were born outside the United States, Alkhatib said during an Internet chat September 7.

Alkhatib, who is president of the Detroit chapter of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), pointed out that "anti-discrimination is U.S. government policy. The government actively encourages inclusion. While there is discrimination, it is not widespread and systemic. Discrimination goes against the civic religion of this country."

The greater Detroit area has the largest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, led by Lebanese, he said. There are also many Iraqis and Yemenis. Other cities with the large concen-

trations of Arab Americans include Los Angeles, New York and Chicago.

Alkhatib sees a large contrast between the economic status of Muslims in the United States and Europe.

"In Europe the picture is bleak," he said. "A significant proportion of European Arabs are Muslims, and they are worse off economically and educationally than the rest of society."

He said acceptance of Muslims into the larger society is the key to helping to improving their social condition in Europe.

"Europe has to understand that once you open the door for guest workers, human beings come. Acceptance and integration come hand in hand," Alkhatib said.

"As long as Muslims in Europe are thought of as guests and European countries think of themselves as not immigration countries, there are going to be problems," he added.

In the United States, he said, there are laws that bar discrimination, "and the emphasis [is] on diversity. Discrimination in employment is very costly for employers in the U.S."

The scarf/hijab debate is a good example of the differences in American and European integration of Muslims, Alkhatib said.

"Nashala Hearn an 11-year-old sixth-grade student at Ben Franklin

Science Academy in Oklahoma was suspended twice for wearing the scarf/hijab. She did what all Americans do when wronged: she sued. The Justice Department joined the suit and accused the Muskogee School District of violating the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. This is stark contrast to French policy," he said.

According to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, there is to be no prohibition on the exercise of religion, and "wearing the scarf is an exercise of religion," he said.

Asked how Muslims can maintain their identity as Muslims in a country so big and changing as the United States, Alkhatib said, "The rule is acceptance of the other. Obeying the law is the benchmark for acceptance. If the Amish and the Lubavitch Jews can thrive in the U.S., Muslims should have no problem."

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Alkhatib said, "There were a number of acts of bigotry, but far more acts of kindness shown by non-Arab non-Muslim Americans to Muslim and Arab Americans."

"There were numerous incidents of discrimination against women who wear clothes that identify them as Muslim. A number suffered rude stares and insults. However, that was not the response of 99 percent of the population. Tol-

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Muslims Integrating and Finding Acceptance . . .

(Continued from page 10)

erance and acceptance is the policy of the country and is widely accepted as the American way," he said.

After September 11 "the government sent clear messages that Muslim Americans are Americans and are not to be mistreated. President Bush visited a mosque in the Washington area and said those who want to mistreat Muslim Americans do not represent America."

Alkhatib added that while every society has some intolerant individuals, "the U.S. public looks down on bigotry, and even bigoted individuals do not wish to be identified as intolerant."

Detroit was a magnet for many Muslim immigrants because of the employment opportunities in the automobile industry, according to Alkhatib. He said that many Southern Lebanese immigrants who escaped the war in Lebanon also ended up in the Detroit area.

He concluded by saying, "We are at home in the U.S."

Alkhatib also serves as director of legal services for a nonprofit organization, Life for Relief and Development (see Web site ([http://](http://www.lifeusa.org/)

[www.lifeusa.org/](http://www.lifeusa.org/))). Currently, Life is helping provide aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In conjunction with a number of Muslim organizations, Life and its coalition partners pledged \$10 million in relief. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng->

[www.adc.org/](http://www.adc.org/)) are available on the ADC Web site.

More Web chats are upcoming including:

Victor Davis Hanson, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, on the spread of freedom (September 21)

Gary Weaver, American University, on immigrant identity and integration into a multi-cultural society (September 28).

If you want to ask a question or make a comment, please register at [iipchat@state.gov](mailto:iipchat@state.gov). If you already have participated in one of our previous discussions, there is no need to register again. Just use the same user name and password. You may identify yourself by the user name of your choice. We look forward to getting your views and questions.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦



**"I teach in the American public schools. I also teach my own children in Islamic school." -- Rawia Ismail, Teacher, Toledo, Ohio**

lish&y= 2005&m= September&x= 20050905132654retnuhateg-dirb0.4986688&t= livefeeds/wf-latest.html).)

ADC is also encouraging donations to relief organizations for the hurricane victims. Details ([http://](http://www.adc.org/)

---

## Millennium Aid Group Adopts New Evaluation Standard

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is changing one of the indicators for determining which developing countries will be eligible to receive Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) funding in the next fiscal year -- FY 2006.

The new indicator is the cost of starting a business in the country. It replaces the existing one, the quality of a country's credit rating, according to a notice published September 8 in the Federal Register.

"MCC believes there are potentially significant gains from adopting this additional measure of the entrepreneurial environment," the notice states.

The MCC, an independent agency, administers the MCA. The agency, established in January 2004, is overseen by a board of directors chaired by the secretary of state and including the secretary of the Treasury, the U.S. trade representative, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and members of the private sector.

The MCC awards grants for multiyear development projects based

on a country's performance against 16 indicators. The projects are developed by the countries themselves and must involve a country's civil society, business sector and local governments as well as its national government.

A country that wants to be eligible for an MCA grant in FY 2006, which begins October 1, also may not have a per capita income exceeding \$1,575 if the country is considered "low income" or \$3,255 if it is considered "lower middle income," according to MCC.

MCC said the strength of the new indicator is that it will help countries easily identify areas of their entrepreneurial environments that need improvements and make quick administrative changes to achieve those improvements.

For instance, it said, a country could lower its cost of creating a business by making the registration process available electronically and by eliminating nonessential fees and the mandatory use of notaries.

The agency said it will consider further changes to the indicators for FY 2007. Such changes would be based on solicited comments from the publics of developing countries.

The 16 selection criteria are in three categories: ruling justly, encouraging economic freedom and investing in people. Indicators are based on performance indices developed by independent sources, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Washington-based research organizations Freedom House and Heritage Foundation and national governments.

The full text of the notice is available in text format (<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-17793.htm>) or PDF format (<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/pdf/05-17793.pdf>) from the Federal Register.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



## Americans Grateful for World's Hurricane Support, Silverberg Says

New York – The United States has received an outpouring of financial support and humanitarian assistance from at least 118 countries and the United Nations since Hurricane Katrina swept across the U. S. Gulf Coast region August 29, says Assistant Secretary of State Kristen Silverberg.

"The American people are grateful for that support, and it is a reminder to all of us that the international community works best when it works together," Silverberg said September 12 at a New York Foreign Press Center briefing.

"Some of the things we think the U.N. does particularly well [are] in the area of humanitarian relief," said Silverberg, who heads the State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs.

Silverberg briefed the news media on U.S. priorities at the 2005 U.N. Summit that launches the 60th session of the U.N. General Assembly. The General Assembly opens September 13, but the high-level summit meets September 14-16 in New York and leaders from 170 nations are expected to attend. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2005/Sep/09-587205.html>).)

The United Nations is engaged in significant debate on how to reform the world body and



**Staff members at the Royal Navy base in Portsmouth, England, prepare 24-hour food ration packs, normally issued to British soldiers, for shipment to hurricane survivors in the United States, Monday, September 5.**

strengthen the institution as it faces the challenges and threats of the 21st century, she said.

Hurricane Katrina tore into the U. S. Gulf Coast on August 29, its 145 mph winds cutting a 125-mile swath of destruction that stretched across coastal Alabama and Mississippi to New Orleans.

(See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Sep/02-225769.html>).)

Katrina then turned into western Mississippi, bringing a 20-foot storm surge along the coast near Biloxi, and headed north, inundating the Mississippi Delta and sending drenching rains as far north as the Ohio Valley.

Compounding the impact of the hurricane, several levees burst August 30, flooding most of New Orleans.

For more information, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)) and Hurricane Katrina ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hurricane\\_katrina.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hurricane_katrina.html)).

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

---

## Final Declaration Ready for U.N. Summit Approval

By Judy Aita and Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.

Washington File Staff Writers

United Nations -- With applause and relief, weary diplomats ended the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly and officially opened the 60th session September 13 after last-minute agreement on a final declaration for world leaders to adopt at the U.N. 60th Anniversary Summit.

The closing ceremony was postponed several times over the past two days as diplomats struggled to complete negotiations on the text of the final document that will be adopted by the world leaders attending the September 14-16 summit preceding the General Assembly's annual debate.

The 35-page document outlines goals and broad statements of principles in the main areas of human rights; development and poverty reduction; peacebuilding and democracy; terrorism; HIV/AIDS and malaria; and U.N. management reform. It also includes an acknowledgement that the international community has the responsibility to use "appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means" to help protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The document strongly condemns terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and

security."

The document also contains new initiatives for a new human rights body called the Human Rights Council and a Peacebuilding Commission to help nations emerging from conflict. Both were proposals of Secretary-General Kofi An-



The U.N General Assembly

nan in his report *In Larger Freedom*. (See related article.)

Strong management reform measures requested by the secretary-general and the United States were replaced by generalities and left to the upcoming General Assembly to flesh out.

Ambassador Jan Eliasson of Sweden, incoming president of the 60th General Assembly session, said the program outlined in the document is "the most ambitious and wide-ranging" since the founding of the United Nations in 1945. He said that the document will be a mandate for action from the leaders of the organization's 191 member states, and is "a strong basis for reform which we will take forward during the 60th session."

"The world's expectations are

high," Eliasson said. "We go into the high-level meeting and await our leaders direction and vision recognizing the responsibility history has placed on us with renewed energy and determination."

Annan, at a late afternoon press briefing, said that overall he was pleased with the outcome document that has been prepared for the world leaders.

"The good news is that we have an outcome document, which has just been approved by the General Assembly almost unanimously with two delegations reserving their positions. The document includes a good chapter on development. We've got the es-

tablishment of the Human Rights Council approved. We've got the Peacebuilding Commission approved," he said.

Annan said that it does contain a definition statement on terrorism, as well as the Democracy Fund.

Annan said the lack of strong management reform in the document is disappointing, but it often is difficult to get everything one might want in an organization with 191 members.

"Of course with this huge number of member states it has been difficult, but I think it has been a success. We've got a good document. It's not everything we wanted, and we can build on it," he said. "The challenge is implementation, moving ahead and working together to implement it," he said.

*(Continued on page 17)*

---

## United States Lists Seven Priorities for U.N. Reform

As the United Nations engages in a critical debate on how to reform itself for the future, the United States has designated seven key priorities to ensure the organization that emerges will be strong, effective and accountable.

The United States says management, budget and administrative reform include an enforceable code of ethics for U.N. staff members. It is also calling for an expanded U.N. Security Council that reflects the world of today.

Other priorities include establishing both a Peace Building Commission and a council to deal with serious human rights abuse. Additional priorities are identified with respect to development goals, support for the U.N. Democracy Fund and adoption of a treaty to outlaw international terrorism.

For more information, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)).

Following is the text of a State Department fact sheet on the U.S. priorities:

(begin fact sheet)

Fact Sheet  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
September 9, 2005

### U.S. PRIORITIES FOR A STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is engaged in one of the most important debates

in its history: how to reform itself, strengthen itself as an institution, and ensure that it addresses effectively the threats and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The United States is prepared to help lead the effort to strengthen and reform the UN. What follows are key issues the U.S. has identified as priorities, as we work with the UN and other member states towards the goal of a strong, effective, and accountable organization.

#### Management, Budget, and Administrative Reform

Management reform is necessary to ensure that Member States receive the greatest benefit from resources and that UN personnel are held to the highest standard of ethical conduct and accountability. Our proposals relate to three themes: accountability and integrity, improved effectiveness, and boosting the UN's relevance in the modern world. Building on these themes, we believe the following specific measures need to be implemented:

-- A strong ethics code must be instilled in UN Staff and strictly enforced.

-- Internal oversight needs to be more independent; an oversight board with separate authority to recommend budget levels would help to accomplish this.

-- The Secretary General's authority and duty to waive immunity must be affirmed so UN officials suspected of committing criminal activities can be fully investigated, and guilty individuals held accountable.

-- UN activities must be reviewed for continuing relevance as the Secretary General has urged, and General Assembly mandates need to be reviewed periodically for relevance and effectiveness [note: it's not just to eliminate mandates after their objectives have been achieved, but also where the mandates have been proven fruitless, inefficient, etc].

#### A Security Council that looks like the World of 2005: The U.S. Approach

The United States is open to UN Security Council reform and expansion as one element of an overall agenda for UN reform. We advocate a criteria-based approach under which potential members must be supremely well qualified, based on factors such as: commitment to democracy and human rights, economic size, population, military capacity, financial contributions to the UN, contributions to UN peace-keeping, and record on counterterrorism and non-proliferation. While the overall geographic balance of the Council is a consideration, effectiveness remains the benchmark for any reform.

#### Peace Building Commission

We strongly support the Secretary General's concept of a Peace Building Commission that would allow the UN to more effectively galvanize international efforts to help countries recover after conflict. Such a Commission is urgently needed to ensure greater coordination within the UN system during a country's transition from

*(Continued on page 16)*

---

## United States Lists Seven Priorities . . .

*(Continued from page 15)*

conflict to post-conflict recovery, to better provide reconstruction and humanitarian support, and to set the stage for long-term development.

### **Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism**

Member states should unequivocally outlaw acts of international terrorism, and it is time to reach agreement on the Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). Adopting the CCIT would be an important achievement in the UN's global effort to counter terrorism.

### **Development**

The United States supports the development goals in the Millennium Declaration, and President Bush has made it clear that expanding the circle of freedom and prosperity are fundamental interests of the United States. The

High-Level Event in September is an opportunity to renew our collective commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic development.

### **The UN Democracy Fund**

The United States is a strong supporter of the newly-created UN Democracy Fund, which will provide grants to non-governmental organizations, governments, and international organizations to carry out democratization projects, particularly those that help develop civil society and democratic institutions. The Fund will coordinate with other UN offices that promote democracy and will generate greater interest and commitment toward funding and implementation.

### **Human Rights Council**

Unfortunately, the current Commission on Human Rights, where

countries with records of serious human rights abuses like Zimbabwe and Cuba sit in judgment of democratic countries, has lost credibility. We support the Secretary-General's initiative to replace the Commission on Human Rights with an action-oriented Human Rights Council, whose membership should not include states with a record of abuse. The Council's mandate should be to address human rights emergencies and the most egregious human rights abuses, to provide technical assistance, and to promote human rights as a global priority.

(end fact sheet)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Fourth Anniversary of September 11, 2001 . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

Also in Washington, the Council on American Islamic Relations will hold an Interfaith Candlelight Vigil at the reflecting pool at the base of Capitol Hill on Friday September 9, from 6:45 p.m. until 7:45 p.m. The event will include remarks by interfaith leaders, and CAIR's "Voice of Unity Award" will be presented. Islamic sunset prayers (Maghrib) will be held immediately after the event.

United in Memory, a nonprofit organization formed after the attacks, started the 9/11 Victims Memorial Quilt project to keep the memory alive. The quilt includes 142 individual quilts, each measuring 10 feet on each side. The total square footage of the quilt is 15,500 and includes a block representing each victim. The quilt is currently touring the nation until it finds a permanent home and will be available for viewing in Washington September 9-11. (See additional informa-

tion (<http://www.unitedinmemory.net/>.)

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
SECTION  
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007  
251-1-174000  
Fax: 251-1-242454  
Email: [pasaddis@state.gov](mailto:pasaddis@state.gov)

Web site  
[http://  
ethiopia.  
usembassy.  
gov](http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov)

## Final Declaration Ready for U.N. Summit . . .

*(Continued from page 14)*

### U.S CALLS DOCUMENT "GOOD FIRST STEP"

U.S. Ambassador John R. Bolton said he was encouraged by the shape of the outcome document, but told reporters "this is not the alpha and the omega, and we never thought it would be."

Bolton said the United States obtained a number of priorities it felt were important on terrorism, human rights and on management reforms. However, he conceded that there were things the United States did not get in the document that now goes to heads of state for final approval.

"It's a text ultimately that member governments are going to have to agree to and we're optimistic about that, although it won't be everything we sought, that we will have a strong outcome document," he said.

The ambassador added that it would have been better if there had been a broader discussion about fundamental changes in U.N. management and governance because it has been "a critically important priority for the United States."

"While the steps that have been taken here are important first steps, there are larger issues. And I think the extent of the discussion over the management and reforms, in and of itself, is indicative of the need for broader reforms," he said.

"We're pleased that this is a good first step.... A lot more work remains to be done," Bolton said.

Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry of the United Kingdom said that the declaration "means that the summit can start on the correct basis. For us the challenge, of course, will be in the 60th assembly to actually maintain the progress that has been made today." ♦

## New Emergency Plan Launched To Protect Horn of Africa . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

polio cases from 350, 000 annually in 1988 to 1163 cases in 2005 (as of 6 September).

Six countries remain "polio endemic" or locations where the disease is prevalent: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Niger and Egypt. However, the release notes, poliovirus continues to spread to previously polio-free countries. In total, ten previously polio-free countries -- Somalia, Indonesia, Yemen, Angola, Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan, Mali, Eritrea and Cameroon -- have been re-infected in late 2004 and 2005 the release said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-eng-lish&y=2005&m=August&x=20>).



**Administering oral polio vaccine in Ethiopia**

plementation of large-scale, high-quality immunization campaigns can rapidly stop epidemics in previously polio-free countries.

Additional information (<http://www.cdc.gov/doc.do/id/0900f3ec802286ba>) about polio is also available at the CDC Web site. For more information, see Health ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/health.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/health.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

050826161436cmretrop0.6876642&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html.)

Evidence from other recent outbreaks in west and central Africa and Yemen confirms that rapid im-